

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

- 1        1.        A method for the catalytic conversion of an  
2        organic carbonate to a corresponding alcohol  
3        comprising:  
4        contacting the organic carbonate with an alcohol  
5        and/or water in the presence of a zinc supported  
6        catalyst.
- 1        2.        The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc  
2        supported catalyst comprises a support material which  
3        is selected from the group consisting of SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,  
4        MgO, TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, C and mixtures thereof.
- 1        3.        The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc  
2        supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising  
3        impregnating the support material with a zinc salt or  
4        a metallic or organometallic species.
- 1        4.        The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc  
2        supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising  
3        co-kneading or co-precipitating a zinc salt with the  
4        salt of another metal.
- 1        5.        The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc  
2        supported catalyst is calcinated at a temperature in  
3        the range of from 200 °C to 800 °C.
- 1        6.        The method of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is  
2        selected from the group consisting of an aromatic  
3        (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>) alcohol and an aliphatic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> alcohol.
- 1        7.        The method of claim 6, wherein the aromatic  
2        alcohol comprises phenol.
- 1        8.        The method of claim 6, wherein the aliphatic  
2        alcohol is a saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-  
3        alkylalcohol.
- 1        9.        The method of claim 1, wherein the organic  
2        carbonate is selected from the group consisting  
3        of dialkyl carbonate, diaryl carbonate,

4           alkylaryl carbonate, and arylalkyl carbonate,  
5           wherein the alkyl and/or aryl groups may be  
6           linked together.

1       10. The method of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio  
2       between water and alcohol is in the range of  
3       from 1:1 to 1:100.